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Serial No. 10/728,721
Wakefield, et al.
Filed December 5, 2003

Response to Office Action

Examiner: Apu M. Mofiz
Group Art Unit: 2165

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: Todd D. Wakefield and David L. Bean

TITLE: Visualization of Integrated Structured Data and
Extracted Relational Facts from Free Text

FILING DATE: December 5, 2003

EXAMINER NAME: Farhan M. Syed

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

A terminal disclaimer is attached to overcome the double patenting rejection.

The Examiner rejected the claims as being anticipated by Lemus. Applicant traverses this rejection.

In paragraphs 6 and 7, Lemus says:

"The system of the present invention can accept text not in a fully structured form (non-structured data) through one of many media extract information, and store results in a database. The current embodiment describes use of text from emails, although the system could use web pages, a section scanned from a

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book, pager messages, messages from voice recognition software, and others.

The systems and methods of the present invention can be used to extract information from text, and particularly from unstructured or short semi-structured messages, such as from email, pagers, or other communication devices. The systems and methods are not limited to any particular length of message or means of communication. Furthermore, a voice recognition front end could be used such that information could be provided over a telephone, converted to text or directly to digital data, and then processed according to the present invention."

This system is useful for obtaining some information from unstructured text. However, Lemus falls far short of the invention recited in the currently pending claims. Applicant's independent claims recite the following novel combination of elements:

- accessing a database of data records, at least some of the data records containing both structured data and unstructured data, the unstructured data of a particular data record including free text related to the structured data of that data record;

- using linguistic characteristics of the free text to extract relational facts from it, producing a set of construed data reflecting at least one relational fact conveyed in the free text, each construed datum being relatable to the structured data of the same data record ;

- producing a set of construed data reflecting at least one relational fact conveyed in the free text, each construed datum being relatable to the structured data of the same data record;

- integrating the construed data with the particular structured data, and rendering at least one visual representation of the integrated data.

Lemus does not disclose this combination of method steps. While Lemus can obtain some useful information from unstructured free text, such as an email, or semi-structured free text such as the "Re:" line of an email, Lemus does not disclose a system having the ability to access data records containing both structured data and unstructured data, using information conveyed entirely linguistically (such as who did, to whom, when where, etc.) rather than conveyed by the format of the data in order to extract relational facts from the free text, producing construed data from the relational facts that relates to the structured data of the data record from which the free text came, and then integrating the construed data with the structured data to which the construed data relates. Lemus does not disclose or suggest this

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combination of steps, so Lemus does not anticipate Applicant's claims. Further, Applicant's dependent claims contain limitations not found in Lemus from which novelty can be found.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of December, 2006.



Daniel P. McCarthy
Reg. No. 36,600
P.O. Box 71550
Salt Lake City, UT 84171-0550
Tel 801 661 8998
Fax 435 615 9669
Email: dmccart@xmission.com